

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 011218Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0410

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SG, FR, SPOP

SUBJ: SENEGALESE WORKERS IN FRANCE

PARIS FOR LABOR ATTACHE

1. SUMMARY. IN PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED LE SOLEIL MARCH 29,
SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO PARIS DEPLORED INDIGNITIES AND
DISCRIMINATION TO WHICH SENEGALESE WORKERS SUBJECTED IN
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FRANCE. NOTING FRENCH ACTS AGAINST SENEGALESE IMMIGRANTS

VIOULATE ACCORDS RECENTLY SIGNED BETWEEN FRANCE AND SENEGAL, SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED VIEW THESE WERE FAULT OF SUBALTERNS IN POLICE AND CUSTOMS SERVICE. HE SAID PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC HAD ASSURED HIM THEY WOULD LOOK INTO SITUATION. THEREFORE HE CONFIDENT FRANCO-SENEGALESE RELATIONS WOULD NOT DETERIORATE.
END SUMMARY.

2. BRIEF REFERENCES HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED IN SENEGALESE PRESS CITING PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S ACTION IN RAISING QUESTION OF AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS IN FRANCE AT TIME OF FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT IN BANGUI AND NOTING CONCERN OF GOVERNING UNION PROGRESSISTE SENEGALAISE WITH STATUS OF SENEGALESE WORKERS IN FRANCE. ON MARCH 29, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LE SOLEIL, PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ON SUBJECT WITH SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ANDRE GUILLABERT. INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY SOLEIL DIRECTOR GENERAL BARA DIOUF.

3. GUILLABERT ATTRIBUTED DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY FRENCH WORKERS TO LOW-LEVEL FRENCH POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ACTIONS THOSE OFFICIALS THREATENED CLOUD COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND SENEGAL WHICH HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT UP UNTIL NOW. GUILLABERT POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE EXTENDED TO ALL AFRICANS WORKING IN FRANCE.

4. PARTICULAR INSTANCES CITED BY GUILLABERT WERE CASES IN WHICH SENEGALESE WORKERS WHO HAD WORK PERMITS AND OTHER PAPERS IN ORDER WERE REFUSED ENTRY AT AIRPORTS. SOME STUDENTS AND SENEGALESE OFFICIALS ALSO TURNED BACK WITHOUT EVEN BEING PERMITTED EXPLAIN THEIR SITUATION. MANY WIVES OF WORKERS LEGALLY RESIDENT IN FRANCE OFTEN REFUSED ENTRY AND NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO SEE THEIR SPOUSES BEFORE BEING SENT BACK HOME, HE ADDED. FINALLY, DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES SUCH AS ONE AIRPORT LINE FOR BLACKS AND ANOTHER ONE FOR WHITES ALSO TAKING PLACE.

5. GUILLABERT SAID THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD BEEN "MOVED (EMU)" BY REVELATION OF CERTAIN FACTS AND THAT HE (GUILLABERT) IS CONVINCED THAT TALKS WOULD BE OPENED WITH A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW TOWARDS MORE VIGOROUS APPLICATION OF ACCORD BETWEEN SENEGAL AND FRANCE. HE ALSO SAID PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION ABELIN WERE LOOKING INTO WAYS TO REMEDY THE OFTEN INHUMANE CONDITIONS IN WHICH AFRICAN WORKERS IN FRANCE FORCED. GUILLABERT CONCLUDED INTERVIEW SAYING HE DID NOT BELIEVE PROBLEM OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS WOULD LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE BECAUSE HE WAS SURE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE ENERGETIC MEASURES TO END

HUMILIATIONS AND DIFFICULTIES WHICH SENEGALESE HAVE
DEPLORED.
AGGREY

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